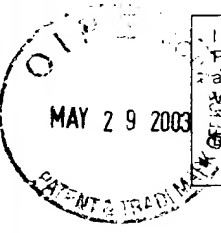


#27



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U S Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P O Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
Dated May 27, 2003
Signature: Jeffrey S. Sharp

Docket No.: 28911/36128
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Alison HOPKINS

Application No.: 09/485,245

Group Art Unit: 1655

Filed: March 27, 2000

Examiner: C. Wilder

For: COMPOSITIONS COMPRISING RANDOM MIXTURES OF OLIGONUCLEOTIDES

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

CHANGE ADDRESS
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated November 27, 2002 in which all pending claims (1 and 3-6) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Reconsideration and allowance of all claims is solicited for the following reasons. This response is timely filed as a petition for a three months extension of time to May 27, 2003 is submitted herewith.

I. Preliminary Remarks

The invention relates to an improvement in random priming methods where random sequence oligonucleotides are used to prime DNA synthesis on denatured template DNA at numerous sites along its length. The primer-template complex serves as a substrate for the "Klenow" fragment of DNA polymerase I and radioactive nucleotides are provided such that newly synthesized DNA is made radioactive. Various kits (See Stratagene) containing solutions of oligonucleotides are known for practice of random priming methods.

There had been a trend toward using longer primers in solution in order to provide more rapid priming. (Megaprime and Ready-To-Go kits) Moreover, Suganuma suggested that shorter